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MALLING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
on the
Health of the
District



WEST MALLING:

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1926

To the

Malling Rural District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report on the Health of the District for the year 1925.

The Report this year is, by order of the Minister of Health, to be a Survey Report and will therefore include a reference to the Natural and Social conditions of the District and to such development and progress as has taken place during the past 5 years.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	38,146
Population, 1925	...	...	...	...	25,840
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921		...	...	...	5,649
Number of Families or separate Occupiers, 1921	...				5,892
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£170,358
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...		...	...	£622/16/4

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Rural District of Malling is bounded on the North by the Districts of Dartford, Strood and Chatham, on the East by Hollingbourne and Maidstone Urban, on the South by Maidstone Rural and Tonbridge, and on the West by Sevenoaks.

Inset towards the West is the Urban District of Wrotham.

This District is exceptionally varied in character both as regards surface and geological features ; Archeologically also it is of great interest.

On the Northern border it takes in the range of Chalk Hills, part of the North Downs, with the old Pilgrim Way running at its foot, south of the hills lies a belt of clay land and beyond this a wide stretch of good agricultural ground largely under fruit and hops. Beyond and again to the south rises the lower range of the Mereworth Hills with much sandy and well wooded country on its Northern slope while the Southern slope with the flat weald country beyond is again principally agricultural land with hops, fruit and pasture predominating. The river Medway enters the District from the South West, passes along a part of its southern border and into the Maidstone area, on the East, after passing through Maidstone it re-enters the District at Allington and flowing almost due North enters the Strood area. In its passage through the South of this district it traverses almost purely agricultural land, but in the North after leaving Maidstone it has on its banks a series

of Cement and other factories with two large Paper Mills. Out of a population of nearly 26,000 over 10,000 are concentrated in this comparatively small area.

Taking into account industrial enterprises carried on in other parts of the District I should estimate that the population is about equally divided between industrial and agricultural pursuits.

It appears from the latest census returns that Malling District employs a larger proportion (8.5%) of its population in cement work and quarrying than any other District in Kent. Other industries of some importance are paper making, brewing, lead wool manufacture, engineering and tanning.

Female labour is largely employed in the fruit and hop gardens and in the Paper Mills. In addition there is a large immigrant population brought in to harvest the fruit and hops.

Poor Law Relief (exclusive of administrative expenses) cost £16,063 the amounts spent on Institution and Outdoor Relief being respectively £9915 and £6148.

No causes of Sickness or Invalidity have been specially noteworthy in the area during the period under review, I have never been able to satisfy myself by statistical or other evidence that phthisis is more prevalent amongst the cement workers than others.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS—	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	222	220	442
Illegitimate ...	9	8	17
	—	—	—
	231	228	459
	—	—	—

The BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the Population is 17.7. Again a very low rate and slightly below that for the country as a whole (18.3). It should be noted that the proportion of legitimate to illegitimate births is much better than the average being only 1 in 27, the pre-war average was 1 in 18 and during the later war years about 1 in 10.

MARRIAGES numbered 202.

Of these there took place :—

In Church ...	... 153
In Chapel ...	... 6
In Register Office ...	43

DEATHS numbered 295, giving a Death Rate of 11.4 per 1,000 of the Population, quite a satisfactory return.

There were no deaths following on child-birth or as the result of pregnancy.

DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR numbered 22, of these 3 were illegitimate children.

The Rate per 1,000 births is 47.9 that for the Country as a whole is 75.

The causes of the 22 deaths were as follows :—

Congenital Debility, Malformation,	Premature Birth	Enteritis, Diarrhoea	Respiratory diseases	Whooping Cough	Other causes	
	8
						3
						2
						3
						6

Of the above number, 4, or 18%, died within one week of birth.

From the principal Zymotic diseases there occurred 27 deaths caused as follows :—

Whooping Cough	...	4
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	4
Influenza	...	19

There were no deaths from Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or any of the rarer Zymotics.

The following Tables give some interesting details :—

Cause	DEATHS		Number	
	Male	Female		
Whooping Cough	1	3
Influenza	7	12
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	12	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	3
Cancer (in all forms)	19	16
Diabetes	2	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	8	7
Heart Disease	20	18
Arterio Sclerosis	4	3
Bronchitis	10	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	10	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	—	1
Acute and chronic Nephritis	5	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	5	3
Suicide	2	—
Other Violent Deaths	4	5
Other defined Diseases	36	36
Cause ill-defined or unknown	1	3
Totals	153	142

	Popu-lations	Births		Deaths		Deaths under 1 year	
		Number	Rate per 1000 of Population	Number	Rate per 100 of Population	Number	Rate per 1000 births registered
10 year average 1910 to 1919	23509	488	20.42	301	13.06	38	76.72
1920	23299	703	30.17	261	11.2	40	56.8
1921	25280	601	23.77	311	12.3	37	61.15
1922	25365	537	21.07	273	10.7	24	44.7
1923	25760	495	19.2	275	10.67	26	52.5
1924	26020	434	16.7	307	11.8	16	37.0
1925	25840	459	17.7	295	11.4	22	47.9

HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals provided by the Local Authority are the King Hill Infirmary with 98 beds and the East Malling Isolation Hospital with 25 beds.

No provision is made for Tuberculosis cases apart from a couple of shelters at the King Hill Infirmary, neither is there any Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children except that provided at King Hill by the Poor Law Authority.

For General Ambulance facilities in non-infectious and accident cases the District depends on the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Maidstone Division, which renders efficient and willing service. A yearly subscription is made by the Local Authority, and there are occasional house to house collections. For Infectious cases a Motor Ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Centres are working at Snodland and West Malling under the County Scheme, there is also a voluntary centre at Mereworth not under County supervision. The only general School Clinic in the District is that held once a month at Snodland. Other clinics for eyes, teeth, etc., are available for cases sent from the Welfare and School Clinics and from the School Inspection Service.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Venereal Centres are available and easily accessible but are not situated within the area.

The following list gives the various Welfare Centres, Clinics, etc., available within the District, also the Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Venereal Centres most conveniently situated for the Population.

All are under the direction of the County Authority which issues periodical reports of the work done and of progress made.

WITHIN THE DISTRICT—

1. Snodland Maternity and Child Welfare Centre held on alternate Wednesdays.
2. West Malling Maternity and Child Welfare Centre held on alternate Thursdays.
3. Snodland School Clinic held on first Thursday in the month.
4. Eye and Dental Clinics are held at Snodland frequently, due notice being given to those desirous of attending. Similar clinics are also held at other centres when the number of cases demand it.

OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT—

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.

Maidstone every Tuesday and Friday.

Tonbridge every Monday and Thursday.

Rochester every Tuesday and Friday.

Sevenoaks every Tuesday.

VENEREAL CENTRES.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

Men---Tuesday and Thursday. Women---Thursday and Friday.

General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells.

Men---Friday. Women---Wednesday.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

are :—

1. Medical Officer of Health.
2. Sanitary Inspector.
3. Isolation Hospital Resident Staff, of Matron, 2 Staff Nurses, Porter, Cook and 2 Ward Maids.

Contributions towards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and of the Sanitary Inspector are made under the Public Health Acts through the Health Ministry.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME is carried on through 8 voluntary Associations. Snodland has a new Association in process of formation, and Wouldham and Burham launched an Association in the Autumn but owing to the closing down of local Cement Works and consequent Unemployment it could not be economically worked so has fallen through, I hope only temporarily. Aylesford is still badly in need of such an Association.

The Associations' work usually combines Home Nursing and Midwifery but there is no arrangement anywhere for the nursing of Infectious Diseases, such as Measles, in the home, excepting at West Malling where there are two Nurses for the Town and surrounding Villages, so one is available for infectious work during epidemics.

Financially the Associations are managed by Local Committees who receive honorary subscriptions, members subscriptions and fees from non-members in addition to Midwifery fees where such cases are undertaken.

About £70 is voted by the Board of Guardians towards the cost of the various Associations.

There are 15 Midwives practising in the District and working under the supervision of the County Authority.

The following Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws, Regulations, etc., relating to the Public Health are in force in this district :—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (certain clauses relating to Rural Districts).

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Cleansing, etc., and Removal of Refuse (P.H. Act, 1875, s. 44).

Tents, Sheds, Vans, etc. (H.W.C. Act, 1885, s. 9 (2)).

Public Mortuaries (P.H. Act. 1875, s. 141) at Aylesford only.

Hop-pickers and Fruit-pickers (P.H. Act, 1875, s. 314) and P.H. (Fruit-pickers' Lodgings) Act, 1882.

New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Act, 1875, s. 157 and P.H.A.A. Act, 1890, s. 23).

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, and Amending Act of 1922.

Public Health Act, 1875, s. 25.

In the appended Report of the Sanitary Inspector will be found tabulated summaries of much of the work of the Sanitary Department for the year.

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act the Police Authority took 150 samples—78 of milk, 50 of groceries, butter and margarine, 5 of drugs, and 17 of various alcohols.

There were as a result 4 prosecutions for adulterated milk with 2 convictions.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY. A very pure, though somewhat hard, water is supplied by the Mid Kent Company to the greater part of the district and to about 85% of the houses.

It is obtained by pumping from borings into the Lower Green sand formation at Halling.

The supply is constant and plentiful.

Now that the Robin Hood estate on Blue Bell Hill is supplied with Company's water, only a few areas are dependent on other sources of supply principally Shipbourne and parts of East Peckham. Shipbourne has an excellent private spring supply which is available for a good part of the village. Shallow wells are in use in parts of East Peckham where the Mid Kent Water is not available ; there are on the other hand some very deep wells found in the neighbourhood of the chalk hills.

ANALYSIS TABLE.

Result of 8 Water Analyses taken at various times and places.	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Free Ammonia	—	—	—
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ...	.00075	.002	—
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes...	.0088	.012	.005
" " 4 hours ...	.014	.019	.009
Total Solid Residue...	24.60	28.0	23.20
Chlorine	1.85	1.90	1.80
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ...	.137	.206	.01
Nitrogen as Nitrites	—	—	—
Temporary Hardness	8.43	9.38	8.12
Permanent Hardness	3.52	3.92	2.94
Total Hardness	11.95	12.88	10.64

RIVERS AND STREAMS. The Medway is polluted at various points by sewage and Mill refuse both directly into the river and indirectly through tributary streams, there is however no fresh pollution within the limits of the District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. As is usual in a large and varied Rural District the schemes for drainage, sewerage and refuse disposal are several.

Snodland, West Malling and the combined areas of Burham, Aylesford and Eccles have 3 separate systems of water carriage with septic tanks and filter beds.

The effluent from the West Malling sewage works reaches a tributary of the Medway after efficient treatment; the greater part of the Snodland sewage is treated before reaching the Medway, the effluent from the Burham and Aylesford Works is usually lost in the sand before reaching the river.

East Malling, Ditton and Woudham are dealt with by pail and earth closets or cesspools, and sewage cart removal.

The remainder of the District being very scattered is dependent on cesspools with or without soakaways according to the nature of the subsoil, the proximity of wells and other circumstances; on earth or pail closets and in a diminishing number of instances on the old midden privy.

Much of the sewage of Wateringbury passes untreated either directly or indirectly into the Medway.

Dry Scavenging by Contract is carried out at Aylesford, Snodland, West Malling and Woudham, and by the Council direct at East Malling and Ditton.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Classified statements in this connexion will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector (appended).

SCHOOLS. This subject is fully dealt with in the School Medical Officer's Report.

HOUSING. General housing conditions are on the whole somewhat easier though there still remains a considerable shortage, and there are a good number of houses awaiting condemnation till accommodation is available.

In 1917 after consultation with various persons with a knowledge of local requirements I estimated the number of new houses needed to be 244. Since that date 247 houses and bungalows have been built, in a considerable proportion of cases by persons of independent small means who have come into the District or who have retired from regular work. A large shortage of houses still remains which I have estimated at 160, of which number 60 would be required to replace houses which should be condemned.

There is little or no over-crowding in a legal sense though the inconvenience resulting from two families so often living in the highly rented recently built small houses is very noteworthy.

The general standard of housing as compared with that of similar rural areas is satisfactory.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	59.				
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923 or 1924—					
i. By the Local Authority ...	...	...	...	...	0
ii. By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	17

1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses*—

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	150
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	150
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	89

2.	<i>Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices—</i>					
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	...	...	...	...	83
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers—</i>					
	<i>A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925—</i>					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	...	...	...	...	6
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—					
	(a) By owners ...	...	...	...	...	6
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners...					0
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...					0
	<i>B. Proceedings under public Health Acts—</i>					
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	...	...	...	...	9
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—					
	(a) By Owners ...	...	...	...	...	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners					0
	<i>C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925</i>					
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...	...	...	...	...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	...	...	...	...	2
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ...	...	...	...	...	2
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	...	...	...	...	0
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	...	...	...	...	0

INSPECTION OF AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk for the District is produced entirely within the area and a quantity is exported to neighbouring Towns.

There is one herd only of Tuberculosis free cows as estimated by the usual test. No action has been taken with regard to Tuberculosis milk or cattle.

No licenses have been asked for, for the sale of milk under special designations.

Meat is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector who administers the 1924 Regulations ; this work is of necessity incompletely carried out owing to his many other duties.

Between 1 and 2 cwt. of meat was condemned during the Hop-picking season.

There are no public slaughter houses in the District.

Private Slaughter Houses :—

	1920	Jan. 1925	Dec. 1925
Registered	25	25	27
Licensed	—	—	27
	25	25	27

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the Act for the notification of Infectious Diseases there were reported 28 cases of Scarlet Fever, 43 of Diphtheria, 1 of Typhoid Fever and 2 of Puerperal Fever. No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified.

The 28 cases of Scarlet Fever were scattered widely through the District, there was no serious epidemic, the cases on the whole were mild in type and there were no deaths. Of the 43 Diphtheria cases reported nearly one half occurred in the Snodland area, there were also smaller outbreaks at Trosley and New Hythe, the remainder of the District was remarkably free.

On the Snodland outbreak I reported fully in November last, from the Report I wish to record the following extract :—

“ Although, as is usual, a large proportion of those attacked were of school age, the cases were fairly evenly distributed amongst the six departments of the two independent Schools ; swabs taken from various children under suspicion were all negative, it was therefore concluded that there was no special School causation. There was abundant evidence in some cases of personal infection in the home.”

Finally I stated that “in this considerable outbreak of 21 cases only 9 were removed to Hospital as against 12 treated in their own homes in a thickly populated area.” This is altogether contrary to precedent and on reference to the figures of the three past years I

find that over 94% of cases notified have been treated in Hospital. I satisfied myself after careful investigation that the continuance of the epidemic was largely due to personal contact in the home and elsewhere in public places frequented by convalescent children before they were allowed to return to school.

Of non-notifiable diseases there were considerable outbreaks of Measles especially at West Malling in August, and at Wateringbury in December. Whooping Cough was prevalent at West Malling in March and again in November, at New Hythe in July, and at Eccles towards the end of the year.

No Schools were closed.

There was an extensive and severe outbreak of Influenza between January and March.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is in general use and is supplied to all practitioners in the District on demand.

Free use is made of the County Laboratory for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens, and its very great usefulness is becoming yearly more fully appreciated.

No use has hitherto been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, respectively.

No vaccinations have been performed under the Small Pox Prevention Regulations, 1917.

Facilities are given at the Isolation Hospital for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings where this is deemed to be necessary.

Infectious Diseases Table :—

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	28	24	0
Diphtheria	43	28	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0
Pneumonia	31	0	*17

*This number is of no statistical value as it includes many forms of Pneumonia non-notifiable and some cases of Pneumonia proper not notified.

There were six cases notified of Erysipelas but none of any other notifiable disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality Table :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
„ 5 ...	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
„ 10 ...	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
„ 15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ 20 ...	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
„ 25 ...	—	2	—	2	4	1	—	—
„ 35 ...	4	4	1	—	1	—	1	1
„ 45 ...	4	—	2	—	3	2	1	—
„ 55 ...	2	1	—	—	1	2	—	1
55 and upwards}	4	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals ...	20	11	4	5	12	7	2	3

Of the 24 deaths recorded 17 had been previously notified as suffering from the disease.

No case of Tuberculosis is known to exist amongst Employees in the milk trade.

The visiting of Tuberculosis patients is still very unsatisfactory and has been so ever since the resignation of Miss Cooke. I would ask you to reconsider your decision not to appoint a visitor, I still think that one appointed on the lines I have already suggested would prove efficient and not costly.

HOP-PICKING.

The season lasted approximately from August 27th to September 23rd.

Weather at the beginning and towards the end was good, in the long interval it was very broken with much rain.

Dr. Lethem, Inspector under the Ministry of Health, visited the District at the beginning of September.

On the whole there was very little sickness. Infantile Diarrhoea gave very little trouble. One case only of notifiable Infectious Disease occurred, a child brought to Mereworth developed a mixed infection of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, there were no further cases.

On a few farms, especially some at East Peckham, conditions were unsatisfactory. Gardner's Farm at East Peckham where there had been trouble was very markedly improved, much had been done. Matters on various Farms which could not be remedied at once were noted and steps will be taken during the summer to secure better conditions for September.

Broadly speaking housing and water supply arrangements generally show a very great improvement and tents are much less in evidence, but Sanitary accommodation is as a rule bad and the condition of the latrines is often such that their use by decent folk is impossible. Good latrines and closets are provided on some farms and can be kept decent if properly looked after though this is admittedly difficult.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Particulars are found in the Sanitary Inspectors Report (appended).

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

May 24th, 1926.

ARTHUR H. ROBERTS.

WEST MALLING.

March 30th, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Malling Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1925, in respect to my duties as your Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, Inspector of Factories and Workshops, Inspector of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops, Inspector of Slaughterhouses and the Public Health Meat Regulations, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, Executive Officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919, Inspector of Canal Boats, Sanitary Surveyor, and Surveyor of New Streets and Buildings.

I submit Schedule of the following nuisances :—

NUISANCES

Accumulation of Refuse	...	...	...	...	49
Drains Blocked	...	...	...	...	71
Defective and insufficient Drains	...	...	...	...	45
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	13
Defective Roofs and Gutters	...	...	...	...	47
Defective Flooring	...	...	...	...	16
Defective Paving	...	...	...	...	17
Defective Water Supply	...	...	...	...	3
Dirty Dwellings	...	...	...	...	12
Dirty Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	5
Dirty Dairies	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	5
Insufficient Ventilation of Houses	...	...	...	...	19
Insufficient and Defective Privies and Water Closets					34
Insufficient and Defective Cesspools	...	...	...	...	29
Keeping animals so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	5
Overflowing Cesspools	...	...	...	...	43
Overflowing Privies	...	...	...	...	25
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	2
Other Nuisances not enumerated	...	...	...	...	31
					475

During the year I served 185 informal notices, 9 statutory notices 5 on owners and 4 on occupiers, all of which have been complied with ; there were no cases referred to the Justices during the year.

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.—As your Executive Officer under the Act, I have had several applications for advice as to the best means of destroying the vermin. The several Rats and Mice Clubs in the different parishes have been very successful in destroying a large number of Rats and Mice.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

During the year I have inspected 150 houses as against 222 in 1924.

I have written and given informal notices to the 89 owners' or their agents, in respect to the several defects as scheduled, and have met the several owners or their agents on the premises and with the exception of 6 cases the defects were remedied without Statutory Notices being served, after serving the 6 Statutory Notices the defects were remedied by the owners without further action being taken.

Of the 150 houses inspected I found 61 satisfactory and 89 with defects as scheduled :—

Cottages unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	2
Defective and insufficient drains	..	..	..	..	41
Defective and insufficient Privies and Water Closets					10
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	11
Defective Paving	...	...	...	...	3
External defects	...	...	...	...	53
Internal defects	...	...	...	...	35
					—
				Total	155
					—

The houses referred to as unfit for habitation were situated at Royston Road, Burham and on informal notice being sent to the owner, the houses were made reasonably fit for habitation.

The 150 houses inspected and reported upon are in the following parishes :—

Aylesford	...	...	...	...	23
Burham	...	...	...	...	10
Birling	...	...	...	...	19
Ditton	...	...	...	...	4
Ightham	...	...	...	...	10
Leybourne	...	...	...	...	4
Malling, E.	...	...	...	...	11
Offham	...	...	...	...	7
Stansted	...	...	...	...	9
Snodland	...	...	...	...	17
Wateringbury	...	...	...	...	11
West Peckham	...	...	...	...	1
Wouldham	...	...	...	...	24
				Total	150
					—

WATER SUPPLY.

144 houses supplied by The Mid Kent Water Company

1	"	"	"	Well.
5	"	"	"	Spring.

DRAINAGE.

65 houses drained to Sewers.

85	"	"	Cesspools.
----	---	---	------------

PRIVY ACCOMMODATION

92 houses have Water Closets		
55	„	Pails
2	„	Earth Closets
1	„	Midden

SCAVERGING.

AYLESFORD.—The dry Scavenging in addition to Scavenging Cesspools and Earth Closets at Millhall is carried out by Contract.

The work has been carried out satisfactorily at a cost of **£217** as against **£247 10s.** in **1924.**

Summary of work done :—

Earth Closets	Cesspools	Refuse
1,007	51 loads	530 loads

SNODLAND.—The dry Scavenging has been carried out by Contract satisfactorily at a cost of **£210 10s.** as against **£230** in **1924.**

The Contractors returns are **1,086 loads.**

WEST MALLING,—The dry scavenging in this parish is carried out by Contract and has worked satisfactorily at a cost of **£156 10s.** as against **£185** in **1924.**

The Contractors returns are **979 loads.**

WOULDHAM.—The combined system of scavenging is carried out by Contract and has worked satisfactorily at a cost of **£240** as against **£249** in **1924.**

Summary of Scavenging done :—

Loads from Cesspools.	Loads from Privies.	Pails emptied.	Loads of refuse.
121	123	18,818	287

EAST MALLING AND DITTON.—The Scavenging here is on the combined system and is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the East Malling and Ditton Sanitary Committee.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

WEST MALLING.—These Works are managed by me under the instructions of the West Malling Sanitary Committee. There are three pumping stations, which pump the sewage from the low levels to the high level from whence it goes by gravitation to the outfall works, where the sewage is treated by the septic system and triple filters, the effluent being discharged into stream. The cost of maintenance of the outfall works for the year was **£98 2s. 9d.** plus repairs to **8 filter beds £50 16s. 5d.** a total of **£148 19s. 2d.** Maintenance of pumping stations **£171 19s. 7½d.**, making a total of **£320 18s. 9½d.**

AYLESFORD AND BURHAM.—These works are managed by Mr. Alfred Greenfield under the direction of the Aylesford and Burham Drainage Committee, I acting in an advisory position and attending the Committee meetings ; the works are in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

I have during the year visited and inspected the slaughterhouses in the district ; and during the year I served 5 informal notices for the cleansing and limewhitening of the slaughterhouse and the work was carried out.

There are at present 27 slaughterhouses in the district including 1 for the slaughtering of horses for human consumption.

Since the coming into force of the Public Health Meat Regulations dated December 20th, 1924, I have had notice of the slaughtering of **3,670** animals during the 8 months the Act has been in force.

During the year I inspected and condemned **73 lbs.** Rump of imported chilled beef and **84 lbs.** Topside of imported chilled beef, a total of **1 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs.**; no action beyond destroying the meat was taken as it was not being offered for sale.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

I have visited and inspected the various cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in the district, I found 5 dirty cowsheds and 2 dirty dairies, I served informal notices on the occupiers to cleanse and limewhite the cowsheds and dairies and on re-inspection I found the notices had been complied with satisfactorily.

There are at present on the Register under the Dairies and Cowsheds (Amendment) Act, as follows :—

Cowkeepers Wholesale and Retail	...	...	...	10
Cowkeepers and Retailers (not wholesale)	...	...	...	35
Cowkeepers wholesale (not retail)	...	...	...	20
Retailers only	...	...	...	14
			Total	79

There have been 7 fresh registrations, 3 changing hands.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

I have during the year made 120 inspections of workshops and 25 inspections of factories.

I have served 3 informal notices of defects as scheduled, and on re-inspection found the notices had been complied with.

There are now on the register 97 Workshops and 18 Factories.

SCHEDULE OF DEFECTS:

Dirty Bakehouses	...	...	2
Defective flooring in Bakehouse			1
			—
		Total	3
			—

PETROLEUM ACTS.

I have visited and inspected from time to time the several premises licensed for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium, under the above Acts, and I have found all the premises satisfactory; at the end of the year there were 58 persons registered and licensed under the Acts. **50** for the storage of Petroleum, **8** for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

I have during the year visited the wharves and sidings in the district, but have had no opportunity of inspecting any Canal Boats as in previous years, the Cabins are locked and no one on board.

There were no infectious cases reported during the year.

HOP-PICKING SEASON.

Before and during the hopping I visited the 49 hopper settlements in the district and found the same satisfactory for the housing of the immigrant hop-pickers. The hop-picking for immigrant hoppers finished September 23rd.

On September 1st, Dr. Lethem of the Ministry of Health visited with me the hopper settlements in West Malling, Mereworth, East Peckham and Wateringbury, and in the evening visited Addington, East Malling, Offham, with the Medical Officer of Health.

The following encampments were provided for the immigrant hop-pickers:—

1 Allington	...	...	50 hoppers, plus children
3 Addington	...	...	450
1 Aylesford	...	...	40
4 Ightham	...	...	240
5 Malling East	...	...	1100
3 Malling West	...	...	80
3 Mereworth	...	...	350
3 Offham	...	...	650
20 Peckham East	...	...	2750
1 Peckham West	...	...	20
5 Wateringbury	...	...	1250
Total	49		6980

For the Housing of Hop-pickers :—

Huts.	Cottages.	Sheds.	Tents.	House Carts.
1572	2	2	12	21

WATER SUPPLY :—

Mid Kent.	Wells.	Springs.
27	15	7

FOOD SUPPLY.—There were very few hawkers this year and the food was satisfactory. I visited the districts daily.

SCAVENGING.—I visited the encampments and had occasion to serve 2 informal notices in respect to unsatisfactory scavenging, on re-inspection the notices had been complied with.

INFECTIOUS CASES.—No infectious cases were officially reported.

FIRE AT HOPPER HUTS.—On September 14th fire broke out at Aldon Farm owned by the Kent Hop and Fruit Farms Ltd., and 12 huts were burnt out, accommodation was found in wagon huts and tents on the farm.

NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

During the year I have issued certificates of completion and for occupation of the following:—

17 Houses.
16 Cottages, Brick.
15 Bungalows, Brick.
11 Bungalows, Timber.
Total 59 as against 41 in 1924.

17 of the above received the subsidy.

During the year I have submitted 93 plans for your Committee's consideration, 90 were approved, 1 Timber Bungalow not approved, 1 Timber Bungalow referred back, 1 Office and Workshop referred back for detail plan.

SCHEDULE OF PLANS SUBMITTED:—

House and Shop	...	...	...	1
Houses	...	...	...	12
Cottages	...	...	...	15
Bungalows, Brick	...	...	...	18
Bungalows, Concrete	...	...	...	4
Bungalows, Timber	...	...	...	18
Additions to Houses	...	...	...	10
.. .. Cottages	...	...	...	5
.. .. Bungalows	...	...	...	2

Other Buildings :

Electric Plant House ...	...	...	1
Stores ...	...	...	1
Addition to Paper Mills	...	...	1
,, Institute ...	...	...	1
Pumping and Petrol Stores ...	...	...	4
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2
Builder's Workshop	...	...	1
Garages ...	...	...	5
Entertainment Hut	...	...	1
Stable and Store	...	...	1
Office and Workshop	...	...	1

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES SOUTER.

